

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 17 are pending in the application. Currently, all claims stand rejected.

By the present amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 8 – 12, and 14 – 17 have been cancelled; new claims 18 and 19 have been added to the application; and claims 3, 5 – 7, and 13 have been amended to reflect the new independent claim 18.

In the office action mailed March 29, 2005, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bennefield and Usui references of record.

The Examiner, and his Primary Examiner, are thanked for the courtesy of conducting a personal interview with the undersigned attorney on July 21, 2005. During the interview, claim 18 and the prior art rejection of record were discussed in detail. It was pointed out to the Examiners that the cited and applied prior art did not teach or suggest the positioning, depressing, inputting, and issuing steps set forth in proposed claim 18. The Examiners agreed that proposed claim 18 was allowable over the references of record. It was also pointed out to the Examiner that claim 18 included method steps from claims 2 and 4.

For the reasons set forth during the interview, claim 18 is believed to be allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5 – 7, and 13 have all been amended to depend from claim 18. Thus, these claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 18, as well as on their own accord.

Claim 19 is a simplified version of former independent claim 8. The method steps in claim 19 can be filed in cancelled claim 8. Claim 19 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 18, as well as on its own accord.

For the foregoing reasons, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

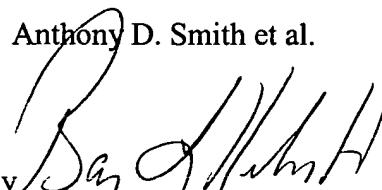
A request for a one-month extension of time and a Notice of Appeal are appended hereto.

The instant amendment should be entered under Order 3311. The amendment does not raise any issue of new matter. Further, it does not require the Examiner to conduct a new search since the subject matter of claim 18 has been previously claimed, albeit in slightly different language. Nor does the Examiner require any further consideration to allow the application. Finally, the instant amendment simplifies the issues for appeal in that it cancels two independent claims.

A check in the amount of \$310.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the extension of time and the notice of appeal. Should the Director determine that an additional fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony D. Smith et al.

By 
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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on July 29, 2005.

